

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 14, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Representative of the United States to the UN
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Secretary Blinken and Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield:

Thank you for your work to sanction the Iranian regime and hold accountable those who are committing horrific human rights violations against brave protesters in Iran. We are writing to share our strong concerns with the Iranian regime's ongoing human rights violations and urge you to use every possible mechanism to hold the regime accountable – including by removing the Iranian government from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

The death of Mahsa Amini while in police custody horrified the world. Iran's so-called "morality police," whose primary role is to enforce laws related to dress, arrested Ms. Amini for wearing her hijab loosely. She is said to have been severely beaten while in custody and later died.

In response to her death, women and young people in Iran began to bravely protest to secure their basic rights. The Iranian regime's violent response to these demonstrations is appalling and sickening. Over 300 people have been killed in these protests and thousands have been arrested.^[1][1] On December 8, Iran executed the first prisoner convicted for a protest-related action.^[2][2] The Iranian regime has a deeply concerning history of executing protesters following unfair trials that involve unsubstantiated accusations and coerced confessions.

Iran is a current member of the CSW, "the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women."^[3][3] Central to CSW's mission is ending gender-based violence and encouraging women's political participation. Given the Iranian regime's campaign of violence against women and girls, it is clearly inappropriate for Iran to serve on the CSW. We support efforts by the Biden Administration to remove Iran from the CSW and to continue to hold the Iranian regime accountable.

The Iranian people have spoken loudly and clearly. It is our duty, as a country that stands for democracy and respect for human rights, to listen and act. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

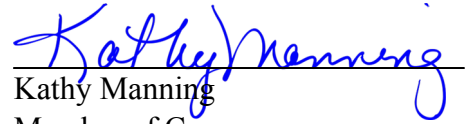
^[1][1] <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130457>

^[2][2] <https://www.npr.org/2022/12/08/1141509858/iran-execution-protests-shekari>

^[3][3] <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>



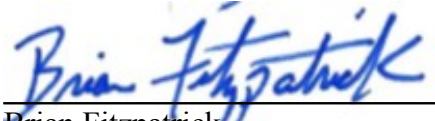
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



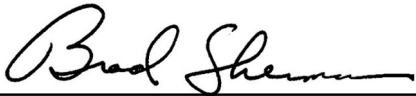
Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



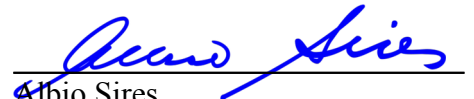
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



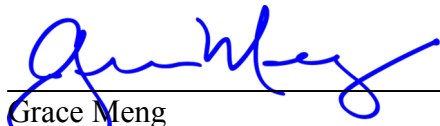
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



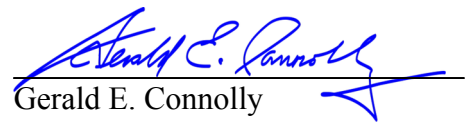
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



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